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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 17 October 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Kiwanuka ..... (Uganda)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 83: International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space (*continued*) (A/55/20, A/55/153)

1. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation) said that the threat of militarization of outer space posed a special problem. By launching space systems for monitoring, communication and navigation, military establishments assisted in the formation of a climate of trust and predictability and facilitated verification of international agreements on arms limitation. On the other hand, such space systems could undermine global strategic stability.

2. The Russian Federation was convinced that outer space must remain an arena of exclusively peaceful cooperation. That was the aim of the initiative put forward by Vladimir V. Putin at the Millennium Summit for the convening under United Nations auspices of an international conference on the prevention of the militarization of outer space.

3. The essence of the initiative was to mobilize international efforts to exclude the deployment in outer space of weapons of any kind, abandon the use or threat of use of force in or from outer space and prevent an arms race in outer space. A clear legal foundation was needed to achieve that goal, given the gaps in today's norms of international space law.

4. The emergence of new forms and directions of cooperation in outer space, including on a commercial basis, the intensification of the space activities of the State and private sectors and the rapid progress of space technologies made it necessary to adapt international law to today's requirements. At the forty-third session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the Russian Federation had supported an initiative to discuss within the framework of the Committee the feasibility and desirability of elaborating a United Nations convention on international space law. The initiative corresponded to the common desire to ensure progressive development of international law and to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its auxiliary bodies. There was also a need to amend the five main outer space treaties now in force, although their principal provisions must be left intact.

5. The development of a comprehensive convention on international space law with due regard for the sovereign rights of States could help to resolve such difficult issues as the delimitation and definition of outer space, control of space pollution, management of scientific research and commercial activities in outer space, registration of space objects, protection of intellectual property, responsibility and the settlement of disputes.

6. The creation of such an instrument would obviously require considerable efforts by the entire international community. The Russian Federation accordingly advocated further progress in international space cooperation and more active efforts by States to implement the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. It favoured the strengthening of the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees on the basis of reforms, enhanced effectiveness and representativity and the reduction of budgetary expenditures for their activities.

7. **Mr. Khurana** (India) said that in recent years the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had worked well to promote international cooperation in outer space, including by focusing the work of its forty-third session on implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

8. India attached great importance to the implementation of the strategy aimed at meeting the challenges identified in the Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development and welcomed the two work plans adopted by the Committee at its forty-third session, one on the implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system and the other on increasing the use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and among United Nations specialized agencies and bodies. It hoped that the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, established to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III, including those on support for the activities of regional centres for space science and technology education, would receive generous support.

9. Conscious of the importance of space applications in the development field, India had focused its space programme on the application of space technology for national development. INSAT-3B, the first satellite in the INSAT-3 series, had been launched on 21 March 2000 with the mission of facilitating business communication using very small

aperture terminals (VSATs) and of broadcasting community education programmes. The Government had also approved measures to permit the allocation of INSAT system capacity for non-governmental users and the use of foreign satellites, under special circumstances, for satellite communication services in India.

10. Remote sensing applications were used in two projects in India: the National Drinking Water Mission and the Natural Resources Information System, which furnished remote sensing images and remote sensing-based information, respectively. The Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific, which was affiliated with the United Nations and based in India, continued to make good progress in its work.

11. **Mr. Ahmad** (Malaysia) said his country feared that the development and testing of weapons systems in outer space and the recent application of space systems for military purposes would intensify the militarization of outer space and trigger an arms race there. Since the existing legal regime was insufficient, an international regime must be developed to prevent such a phenomenon. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should consider the possibility of establishing a mechanism to coordinate its work with related bodies, in particular with the Conference on Disarmament.

12. Malaysia had entered the space arena with the launch of TiungSAT-1, its first micro satellite for observation of the earth for meteorological, forestry, agricultural and natural disaster prevention purposes. Conscious of the limitations of its resources, however, Malaysia was actively seeking international cooperation. It had already established strong links at the regional level with members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the areas of remote sensing, satellite data reception and distribution and haze prevention. It was also cooperating with several States Members of the United Nations.

13. Malaysia was concerned by the attempts of some Member States to create a comprehensive convention on international space law. It believed that the existing legal regime was adequate to govern the exploration and uses of outer space, and that it would be practical for Member States, after having reviewed their domestic laws on outer space, to adhere to and apply the international legal instruments governing outer space.

14. Turning to the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, he said his delegation felt that it should be enlarged in order to enhance its role and, by the same token, to abolish the practice of sharing seats on a rotating basis so that the members concerned might become full members of the Committee. Malaysia welcomed the Committee's recommendation that the issue of enlargement of its membership be included in the agenda for its forty-fourth session.

15. **Mr. Zohar** (Israel) said that, having played an active role in UNISPACE III, Israel was following with great interest the work of COPUOS and was involved in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. The Israel Space Agency, established in 1983, had the task of promoting space-related activities in Israel. In 1988, Israel had entered the space age with the launch of the first OFEQ satellite. The Shavit launcher had subsequently served to propel other satellites into outer space. Building on those successes, Israel planned to develop several EROS (Earth Remote Observation System) commercial satellites, the first of which was scheduled for launch at the end of 2000. In 1996, the Israeli geostationary satellite for the Middle East and Eastern Europe (AMOS), equipped with nine transponders and two beams, had been launched on Ariane-4. In 1998, a Zenith launcher had carried the micro satellite TECHSAT into outer space together with several scientific payloads. Three Israeli-made satellites were currently orbiting the earth.

16. Israel was continuing to build an infrastructure geared towards achieving optimal economic and commercial results by making use of its technological advances in certain fields, notably in the use of small satellites, space propulsion and remote sensing. It was carrying out a number of research programmes, including digital elevation models (DEM), mapping of geomorphology and seismology in the Jordan Valley, remote environmental observation, use of the Global Positioning System (GPS) for geodetic and geophysical applications and atmospheric and meteorological studies.

17. Israel was also carrying out a number of collaborative projects with various partners, including the Russian Federation (TAUVEX telescope), the Netherlands (participation in the scientific project SLOSHSAT to investigate sloshing in satellite fuel tanks) and German companies (feasibility study on the development of the "David" small commercial remote-

sensing satellite). It had established a ground receiving station where images from the French satellite SPOT and the European satellite ERS were received. It was preparing the Mediterranean Dust Experiment (MEIDEX), to be carried on a launch vehicle of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Together with Israeli universities, the Israel Space Agency had established the ISA-MEIDA programme (Israel Space Agency - Middle East Interactive Data Archives) as part of the Earth Observing System Data and Information System (EOSDIS), NASA's world-wide net. Israel would participate in the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay System (EGNOS). Lastly, the Israel Space Agency had signed cooperation agreements with NASA, the Centre national d'études spatiales (CNES) and the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Space Agency and planned to sign cooperation agreements with India and Ukraine.

18. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia) said that the progress achieved in space technology should become an instrument for the development of all countries. He welcomed the fact that a French proposal co-sponsored by the Colombian Government had resulted in an agreement on the rational and equitable use of frequency bands and of the geostationary orbit which had been adopted by consensus in the Legal Subcommittee and endorsed by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. His delegation hoped that the principle of equitable access would be reflected in the activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU): it was important to strengthen the coordination between ITU and COPUOS. Colombia encouraged the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to continue its work on the definition of the geostationary orbit and believed it would be useful to restart the discussions, long deferred, on the definition and delimitation of outer space.

19. His delegation also believed that the existing legal regime must be adapted and strengthened to take account of new advances and challenges, and it encouraged Member States to examine the possibility of adopting a general convention on space law, like the one on the law of the sea. Space activities should be carried out on the basis of respect for the following principles: the benefit of humanity, the peaceful uses of outer space and the interests of the developing countries. In that context, Colombia called for the reinforcement of the mechanisms for international cooperation. UNISPACE III had permitted the identification of several applications of space technology to sustainable development, and his country deemed the implementation of the commitments made at the Conference to be of great importance. Access to existing technologies should be linked to educational initiatives adapted to particular national requirements, the objective being to train specialists who in turn would advance the cause of knowledge.

20. **Mr. Dausa Cespedes** (Cuba) said that since outer space was part of the common world heritage, three main principles should be defended by all States. The first was the need to preserve outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes and to promote international cooperation for such purposes, the objective being to achieve continued economic growth and sustainable development for all countries, in particular the developing countries. That was one of the rights of the developing countries and one of the duties of the industrialized countries that had mastered space technology. The gap between those two groups was still wide open, while at the same time, there was a steady increase in the economic and social spin-off benefits of space technology and in its applications to earth observation and natural disaster prevention. In that connection, his delegation would oppose any attempt to revise the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space that did not take account of the interests and concerns of all countries, including the developing countries.

21. Second, an arms race in outer space must be prevented. In that connection, his delegation strongly objected to the missile defence programme of the United States of America, which by all accounts had not been entirely abandoned. The negotiations within the Conference on Disarmament with a view to elaborating an international instrument aimed at preventing an arms race in outer space were doomed to failure, in Cuba's opinion, owing to the position of certain nuclear Powers which were also space Powers. Cuba would pursue its cooperation with the non-aligned countries and any other country that opposed the use of outer space for anything other than peaceful purposes.

22. The third principle related to space law. His delegation considered that the existing legal instruments were not sufficient to prevent an arms race in outer space and believed that new measures must be adopted. It advocated the strengthening of the role of

the Committee and its two subcommittees and the abolition of the practice of sharing seats on a rotating basis, so that all the countries affected by that system could become full members of the Committee.

23. Affordable strategies must be devised to minimize the effects of space debris and to give more attention to collisions between space debris and space objects, in particular those with nuclear power sources. His delegation thanked the Committee for its efforts in that area and considered that the individuals responsible for damage must be made to answer for their acts. Cuba was of the view that the Vienna Declaration adopted at the close of UNISPACE III would provide guidance in the programming of activities and that regional cooperation as well as cooperation within the framework of the United Nations and Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should be strengthened.

24. **Mr. Pohan** (Indonesia) said that international cooperation was indispensable in order to ensure that human activities in outer space benefited all peoples, including in the developing countries, and contributed to the sustainability of the planet. The use of outer space for peaceful purposes would help definitively to move beyond the cold war and the foregoing period. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had an important role to play, both in the further development of international space law and in enhancing its own methods of work.

25. His delegation welcomed the work done by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, especially with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Conference had established objectives for the short and medium term that were of major importance for the developing countries. United Nations conferences, training courses and workshops would help developing countries to move forward in the application of space technology. Indeed, if only for economic reasons, it was no longer possible not to be involved in such space activities as remote sensing, which promoted sustainable development and environmental protection. It was therefore essential for the developing countries to be given access to remote sensing technologies at reasonable cost and in a timely manner. Initiatives such as World Space Week should be encouraged and developing countries must be assured of the resources required to take part in such activities.

26. His delegation reaffirmed the importance it attached to the deliberations of the Legal Subcommittee concerning the review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. It had noted with satisfaction that that item had been retained on the agenda for the fortieth session of the Legal Subcommittee in 2001. As an equatorial country, Indonesia believed that the Legal Subcommittee should consider the utilization of the geostationary orbit and the definition and delimitation of outer space as matters of priority. The geostationary orbit being a limited resource, in was in the interests of all countries to harness its use on a just and rational basis. Indonesia invited Member States to engage in negotiations with a view to establishing an appropriate legal regime for the geostationary orbit.

27. His country was convinced that the spin-off benefits of space technology could yield benefits for humanity in such fields as human health, nuclear and environmental clean-up, satellite telecommunications and maritime and air transport. It regretted, however, that the levels of assistance and the training programmes proposed for developing countries were insufficient to enable them to benefit from space applications. The role of COPUOS should accordingly be reinforced.

28. **Mr. Miyamoto** (Japan) said that space technology had the potential to contribute to human progress, and international cooperation should be increased toward that end. His delegation acknowledged the important role of COPUO and welcomed the draft resolution before the Fourth Committee. Japan was anxious to see the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration adopted at UNISPACE III and was pleased to see that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space had adopted the Canadian proposal on how that might be done. It looked forward to participating in an in-depth discussion on that matter at the next meeting of COPUOS.

29. Referring to the recommendation in the Vienna Declaration concerning the development of the legal framework for space activities, he said that several proposals had been presented to the Legal Subcommittee, including on space debris and commercial aspects of space activities. It was important, however, first to gather technical data from Member States which had scientific and research

experience in the field. The goal was not to regulate space activities unnecessarily but to ensure that they were conducted in a fair manner and within the existing legal framework.

30. Japan was committed to the idea that the spin-off benefits of space activities should benefit all in such fields as communication, transportation and meteorology. In cooperation with other countries, it had used its remote sensing technology to help scientists to better understand the underlying mechanisms of such natural phenomena as El Niño, climate change as a result of the hole in the ozone layer, *inter alia*, and deforestation.

31. **Mr. Hodgkins** (United States of America) said that over forty years ago, the United States and 19 other countries had participated in the establishment of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which had played a crucial role in advancing space cooperation. The only standing body of the General Assembly devoted to that purpose, the Committee offered a forum devoted exclusively to promoting the cooperative achievement and sharing of benefits from space exploration. In line with the recommendations set out in the Vienna Declaration, his delegation had joined Austria, Canada, Chile, Nigeria and Turkey in proposing a new item for inclusion in the Committee's agenda entitled "Space and society". That proposal had unfortunately not garnered the necessary support, but he was confident that a consensus would be reached in the near future. The United States welcomed the success of UNISPACE III, which had brought together leading scientists, government officials and private sector representatives. The involvement of the private sector in the Committee's work should be increased and its resources and expertise should be made available to the Committee.

32. Concerning the future work of the Committee and its subcommittees, he welcomed the restructuring of their agendas and the new approaches to the consideration of agenda items. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee had addressed the issue of international cooperation in human spaceflight, providing an opportunity for an exchange of views on the development and utilization of the International Space Station. In 2001, the Subcommittee would consider a topic proposed by the United States on public and private initiatives to promote space education. He was also pleased to note that multi-year work plans had been adopted in order to coordinate the applications of space technology among United Nations agencies in the context of their respective mandates and to facilitate disaster management.

33. The Legal Subcommittee was entering the second year of work to review the concept of the "launching State" and would also take up the consideration of the draft convention of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) on international interests in mobile equipment and the preliminary draft protocol thereto on matters specific to space property. His delegation believed that the new methods of work and agenda items would permit each member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to report on topics of long-standing interest and allow timely new topics to be introduced. Those were significant steps forward in ensuring that the Committee's work kept pace with the rapid developments in space exploration.

34. **Mr. Tomka** (Slovakia) said that his country fully supported the views expressed by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union and associated countries. Slovakia devoted a great deal of attention to the peaceful uses of outer space. It had established a national committee for research and peaceful uses of outer space as a governmental advisory body. In 1999, Slovakia's first astronaut had participated in a space mission carried out in cooperation with the Russian Federation and France. The mission had yielded new insights into space physics and life sciences and results in the context of ground projects on training and metabolism. Slovakia was ready to cooperate further and share the experience obtained.

35. Slovakia welcomed the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and supported the efforts to strengthen its role. It welcomed the initiatives taken by the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to promote the use of space technologies within the United Nations system and was looking forward to a discussion on and the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, activities in which it would like to participate actively.

36. **Mr. Al-Saud** (Saudi Arabia) said that the Vienna Declaration adopted at UNISPACE III stressed the need for bilateral, regional and international cooperation in implementing the Conference's recommendations and reaffirmed General Assembly resolution 51/122 entitled "Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space

for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries".

37. In that connection, his delegation wished to address the issue of enlargement of the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. He drew attention to the fact that Saudi Arabia had submitted requests for membership in the Committee on several occasions and on 24 May 2000 had addressed to the Committee a memorandum on that subject in which it had outlined its expertise and activities with regard to outer space and the measures it had taken to encourage private sector participation in such activities at the national, regional and international levels. Since 1983, Saudi Arabia had had a remote-sensing site consisting of a receiving station for transmissions from many satellites of various nations and serving as the headquarters of ARABSAT. In 1985, one of its citizens had participated in a space mission on the shuttle Discovery. Saudi Arabia had just launched two telecommunication and research satellites in cooperation with the Russian Federation. Its candidacy had been supported by a great many delegations at the Committee's previous session. It hoped to contribute to the Committee with a view to strengthening it in conformity with the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the United Nations, which called for enhanced cooperation and the use of international institutions to ensure the economic and social well-being of all peoples.

38. **Mr. Picasso** (Peru) said that as part of Peru's commitment to the principle of peaceful, sustainable and fair use of outer space, it had followed with interest the evolution of the Committee's work over the past year. It had received with interest the proposals aimed at drawing up an international legal regime to prevent an arms race in outer space and centred on innovative activities in the service of society. In that sense, Peru endorsed the United Nations Programme on Space Applications but believed that the measures covered by the Programme could be carried out only through effective international cooperation based on access to technology, the elaboration of specific projects for space activities and the transmission of processed information that would have a practical and direct effect on the sustainable development of States.

39. His delegation was particularly interested in environmental protection and the management of natural disasters. The latter was of high priority for Peru which, throughout its history, had been severely affected by floods, droughts and earthquakes, among other natural disasters. Space applications should make it possible to quantify the causes of such disasters and to establish an early warning system based on remote sensing in order to prevent enormous human and material losses. His delegation was pleased that a new item entitled "Implementation of an integrated, space-based global natural disaster management system" had been included in the agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

40. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications would have a much greater impact if the measures envisaged were diversified and decentralized through the establishment and reinforcement of regional education centres in science and technology. Peru accordingly welcomed the holding in October 1999 of the first meeting of the Governing Board of the Regional Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Latin America and the Caribbean. Such institutions were essential to the implementation of the recommendations that had emerged from UNISPACE III.

41. The important role that space science and technology would play in the development of States was becoming increasingly visible. The essential challenge was to ensure that the benefits of such technology were placed at the disposal of all countries, particularly those in extreme poverty. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration, heads of State and Government had committed themselves to eradicating poverty; the applications of space technology were a key item for achieving that goal.

42. That was why his delegation did not understand why consideration of the item on the enlargement of the membership of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space continued to be postponed. Peru was one of the countries which shared a seat on the Committee on a rotating basis and had had the experience of seeing its participation in the discussion of items it considered of vital importance ended every two years. It believed that all States that were committed to the peaceful and sustainable use of outer space and that had shown signs of espousing the Committee's main goals should be authorized to participate in the Committee's work as full members. It welcomed the Committee's decision to consider the item at its upcoming session in 2001.

43. **Mr. Atieh** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country welcomed the growing international tendency towards the peaceful uses of outer space, of which maximum benefits were expected in economic and social terms, especially for the developing countries. He also welcomed reductions in the budgets for military space programmes in favour of activities for development and environmental protection, but noted with concern that some programmes were still aimed at the militarization of outer space and its use for purposes contrary to peace and development. As part of the Syrian contribution to the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, a citizen of that country had participated in a space mission several years ago and an early warning system had been established.

44. The peaceful uses of outer space presupposed a sincere commitment on the part of the international community and a framework of clear legal rules that were constantly being updated. The militarization of outer space and an arms race in outer space must be prohibited. To achieve that goal, the Conference on Disarmament and COPUOS must coordinate their efforts and activities, and it was the great Powers and the countries with significant space capabilities that were most directly concerned. Similarly, the issue of space debris must be given in-depth consideration, if only to prevent collisions, particularly with objects carrying nuclear components, and the States concerned should provide the necessary information on the components of their space vehicles and the fuels they used as well as on the safety measures undertaken.

45. His delegation welcomed the report of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (A/55/20) and the results of UNISPACE III, particularly the Vienna Declaration and the resolutions and recommendations on ways of enabling developing countries to benefit from progress in space technology. Lastly, he supported the request made by Saudi Arabia concerning enlargement of membership of the Committee and its request for inclusion in its membership. The Syrian Arab Republic hoped that the peaceful uses of outer space would help to strengthen security, stability and justice throughout the world.

46. **Mr. Eguiguren** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the countries of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) and the associated States (Bolivia and Chile), said that space technology had become indispensable to the socio-economic development of countries in so far as it permitted the timely acquisition of valuable information for policy coordination in various areas. He cited a number of regional meetings that had culminated in UNISPACE III and had permitted the MERCOSUR countries and the associated States to adopt common positions and to elaborate an informal plan of cooperation, particularly in the academic and technical fields. Such cooperation had made it possible, *inter alia*, to disseminate various practical applications of space technology, and many initiatives had been launched in that area, for example, the second international seminar on new satellite navigation systems, held in Montevideo in September 2000.

47. There was still, however, no clear awareness of the scope and implications of the applications of space technology. In that regard, he stressed the importance of such technology for protection of the environment, promotion of education and reduction of natural disasters. Satellites provided information that was crucial to the development of an appropriate method of environmental protection and natural resource management. Through mass literacy campaigns and distance teaching, they could help countries to enter the era of globalization, as education could contribute significantly to reducing the structural imbalances linked to that phenomenon. If made generally available, space technology could help to save lives in disaster situations and develop a climate of prevention.

48. Clearly, international cooperation, designated as a "duty" in General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV), must play a decisive role and enable all Member States to tackle such major problems as extreme poverty with the most effective technological instruments. The decision of UNISPACE III to establish a voluntary United Nations fund for the purpose of implementing its recommendations attested to the importance of international cooperation, which was fundamental to the institution of more equitable relations among countries. The essential character of international cooperation had been underlined in the Principles Relating to Remote Sensing of the Earth from Outer Space (General Assembly resolution 41/65), adopted in 1986, and the Declaration on International Cooperation in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space for the Benefit and in the Interest of All States, Taking into Particular Account the Needs of Developing Countries (General Assembly resolution 51/122), adopted in 1996. Those two instruments, as well as the outer space treaties, made a clear distinction between "data" and "information". Many countries possessed an

enormous quantity of data but had limited means of processing it. They should be given the valuable information that they needed for economic and social development and efforts should be made to ensure that space technology served as a tool for solving real-life problems such as facilitating communication and disaster management. For ethical and practical reasons, the vicious circle of poverty and lack of access to modern technological resources must be broken, and a virtuous circle established in which such technology made it possible to achieve better standards of living.

49. Clearer legal norms or political arrangements should be worked out so that space technology might be used to create a framework of security for the populations of various countries and to give them the means of achieving progress. That idea was based on he principles of "positive discrimination" and "common heritage of mankind". In the Concepción Declaration, the countries of Latin America, the MERCOSUR countries and the associated States had reaffirmed the importance of continued progress in the elaboration of standards contributing to the development of international space law and had urged the States of the region to sign and ratify the relevant multilateral legal instruments.

50. In conclusion, he proposed the insertion in the draft resolution under consideration by the Working Group of a new paragraph, to read:

"*Recognizes* the timeliness and usefulness of the Space Conferences of the Americas for the Latin American countries and urges that a fourth such conference be organized. Further urges other continents to convene periodically regional conferences aimed at elaborating common technical and political positions on issues relating to outer space with a view to achieving convergence of views among the various members of the Committee."

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.